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OFFICE OF THE THEATER SURGEON

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CIRCULAR LETTER)

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ISSUE AND USE OF TEETH, VULCANITE AND FACINGS

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I. Rescission of Circular Letters.

1. The following Theater Surgeon's Circular Letters, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Far East, are hereby rescinded:

a. Circular Letter No. 3, Issue and Use of Teeth, Vulcanite, dated 12 January 1945.

b. Circular Letter No. 18, Issue and Use of Teeth, Vulcanite, dated 6 June 1945.

II. General.

2. The following information concerning the issue and use of Teeth, Vulcanite is published for the guidance of all concerned.

3. In order to utilize most effectively the stocks of artificial teeth and facings in the theater, it is desired that all replacements for these items be requisitioned by individual shade and mold on W.D., A.G.O. Form 3-149, supplies of which are obtainable from the A.G., Publication Division.

III. Initial Issues.

4. The issue of item 5611500 Teeth, Vulcanite, Hospital Assortment, will be discontinued except to new installations of permanent nature for which this is a T/E item.

5. Item 9509500 Teeth, Combination Set will be issued only as a component of Chest W.D. No. 62 (Dental Laboratory) and will not be issued as a replacement item.

6. Item 5285000 Facings, U.S. Army Assortment may be requisitioned by Dental Laboratories and Dental Clinics for use as original stock.

IV. Discontinuance of Basic Assortment.

7. The issuance of item 5612050-55 Teeth Vulcanite, Basic Assortment, will no longer be made as a replacement factor for either 5611500 or 9509500. This basic assortment was authorized for issue by Circular Letter No. 3, USAFFE dated 12 Jan 45 and Circular Letter 18, USAFFE dated 6 June 1945 and was composed of 140 sets upper anteriors; 49 sets lower anteriors; 105 sets upper posteriors and 105 sets of lower posterior teeth, covering the more popular molds in all shades.

V. Requisitions for Replacements.

8. Replacements for items 5611500 and 9509500 will be requested on W.D., AGO Form 8-149 and requests will be limited to fill-in stock for sets expended.

9. Replacements for item 5285000 will also be made as in "a" above. Additional amounts of 5285000 will not be requisitioned to use as fill-in for depleted stock.

VI. Storage and Issue by Depot.

10. All existing stocks of item 5285000 Facings, U.S. Army Assortment; 5286000 Facings, Facing Replacement; 5287000 Facings, Backing Replacement; 5611500 Teeth, Vulcanite, Hospital Assortment; 5612050 Teeth, Vulcanite Anteriors; 5612055 Teeth, Vulcanite, Posteriors; 9509500 Teeth, Combination Set; at present in Base Depots will be shipped to the Key Depot in each Major Command, from where all requisitions for these items will be filled.

11. Teeth and facings will be maintained on a separate stock record account by shade and mold in each Key Depot, and future requisitions to the U.S. will be based on replacements for sets actually expended. This will eliminate the collection of less desirable shades and molds in large numbers, which results in the requisitioning of replacements for 5612050-55, Basic Assortment.

VII. Conservation of Stocks.

12. It is felt necessary to repeat that molds and shades vary in the products of the various manufacturers. All dental officers are cautioned that they must make the fullest effort to use up existing stocks rather than to discard those not to the individual liking. Observance of this principle will prevent large numbers of teeth remaining idle on a shelf while additional teeth must be obtained from the U.S. which may be identical to the types already relegated to dead stock.

13. It is recommended that all stocks of teeth in Central Dental Laboratories and Dental Clinics be carefully reviewed and where there are broken sets in abundance these be consolidated and the remainder be utilized as far as possible in the construction of Partial Dentures.

VIII. Conservation of Stocks

14. The method of storing teeth in dental laboratories as prescribed in War Department Supply Bulletin 8-19 dated May 1945 will be strictly adhered to by all installations in this Theater as quoted below:

15. The present method of accounting for these teeth is not satisfactory from a stock level standpoint in as much as it does not reflect actual consumption of teeth by mold and shade. Therefore, station supply officers will take steps to establish control levels on each mold and shade. "W.D., A.G.O. Form 10-112, or any other suitable card, may be used as an auxiliary record card for this purpose. Such cards will contain all information such as "on hand", "on order", etc. T.M. 38-220 prescribes the method of computing control levels for expendable items.

16. There is no objection to continuing the custom generally followed by accountable medical supply officers of issuing subject items to dental laboratories in bulk and dropping them from accountability under their respective stock numbers. However, issue experience for requisitioning purposes will be only the actual number of each mold and shade consumed and for which replenishment is required to maintain established levels. Issue experience will be taken from auxiliary records and not from the medical stock record cards.

17. It is suggested that stock of teeth be arranged in dental laboratory store rooms in the sequence shown on sheet 2, "W.D., A.G.O. Form 8-149. Following is an approved description of the method used for maintaining stock of subject items:

a. Using a cabinet, 31 by 15½ by 20½ inches, consisting of 14 drawers, the teeth are arranged from top drawer to bottom drawer as follows: upper anterior, lower anterior, upper posterior and lowest posterior. (See 17, g., (2) below)

b. Of the various molds and shades decided upon to make up the standard or popular stock of teeth, three sets of each are placed in the cabinet.

c. Small blocks of white wood, sizes 2½ inches 5/8 inch by ½ inch, and 3½ inches by 5/8 inch by ½ inch, are cut. These blocks are the same sizes as the mounts for the anterior and posterior teeth, respectively. These blocks of wood are placed in a box near the tooth cabinet.

d. As the Prosthetic Section removes teeth from cabinet for use, a block of wood is inserted in the place of the sets of teeth removed.

e. At the end of the month when teeth are requisitioned, the shade, mold and date of order are written on these blocks in pencil.

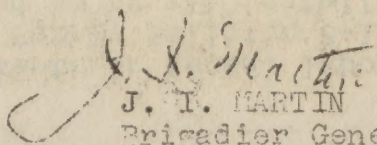
f. When order of teeth is received the blocks are replaced by the proper mold and shade. The mold, shade, and date of order are erased from the blocks removed from the cabinet and placed in the box for re-use.

g. If all necessary molds and shades are not received, the blocks of those not received are left in place and check made with medical supply officer to ascertain status of teeth not received:

- (1) The method suggested in 15 and 16 above can be used equally as well for item 5286000 Facings, Facing Replacement, and 5287000 Facings, Backing Replacement, using the sequence shown on sheet 1, W.D., A.G.O. Form 8-149.
- (2) All installations will adopt system along the lines outlined above. Until such time as a cabinet for storing teeth, facings and backings is standardized in Army Service Forces Catalogue MED 3, local improvisations should be accomplished without expenditures of funds.

IX. Disposition of Excess Teeth.

18. All stocks of teeth which are in excess to station requirements will be reported to Key Depots of each Major Command for disposition. Full carded sets of teeth only will be so reported.


J. T. MARTIN
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Chief Surgeon

DISTRIBUTION:

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